



JEPH LOEB JIM LEE S. WILLIAMS

611 MAR 2003

BATMAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

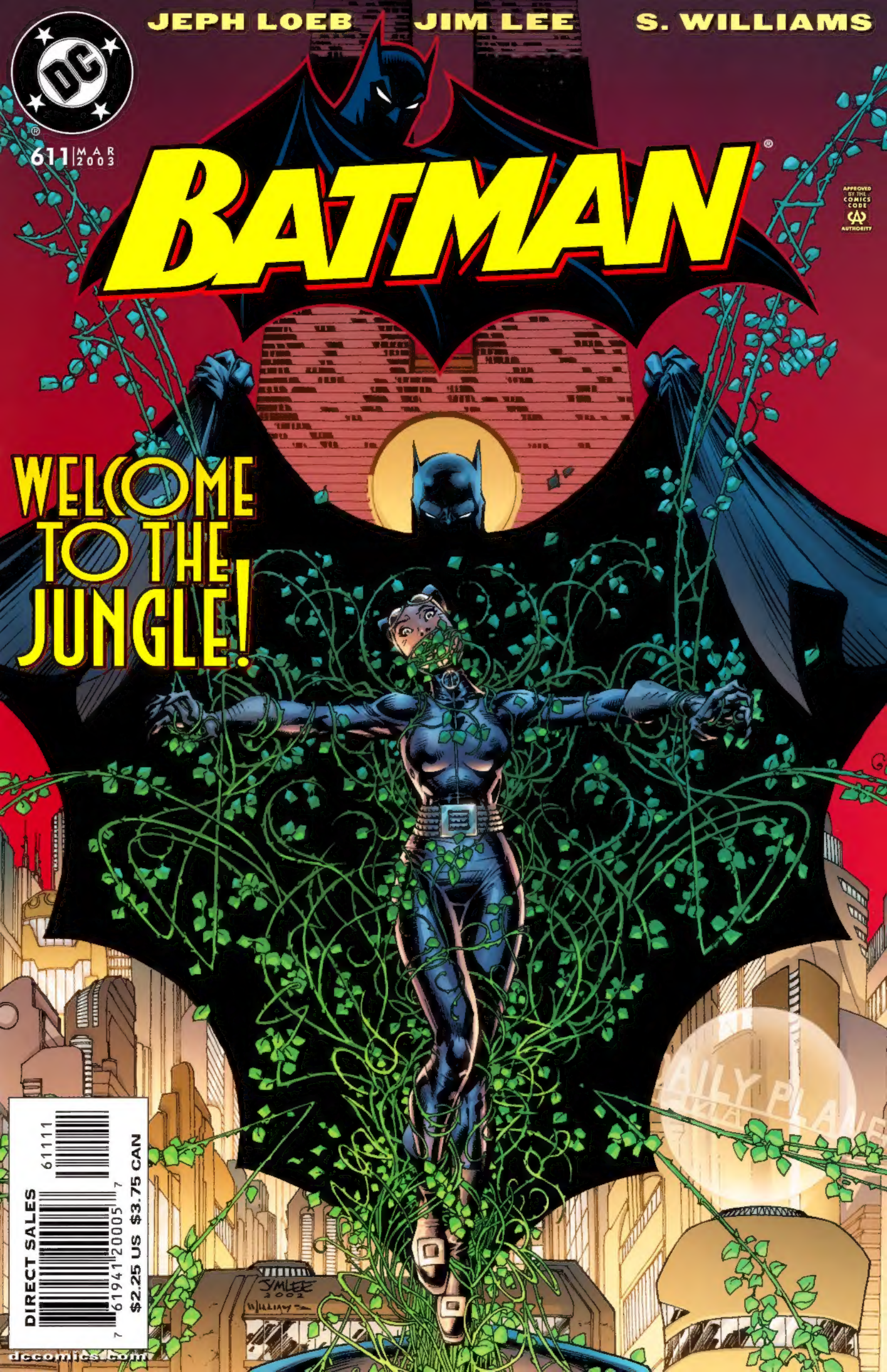
WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE!

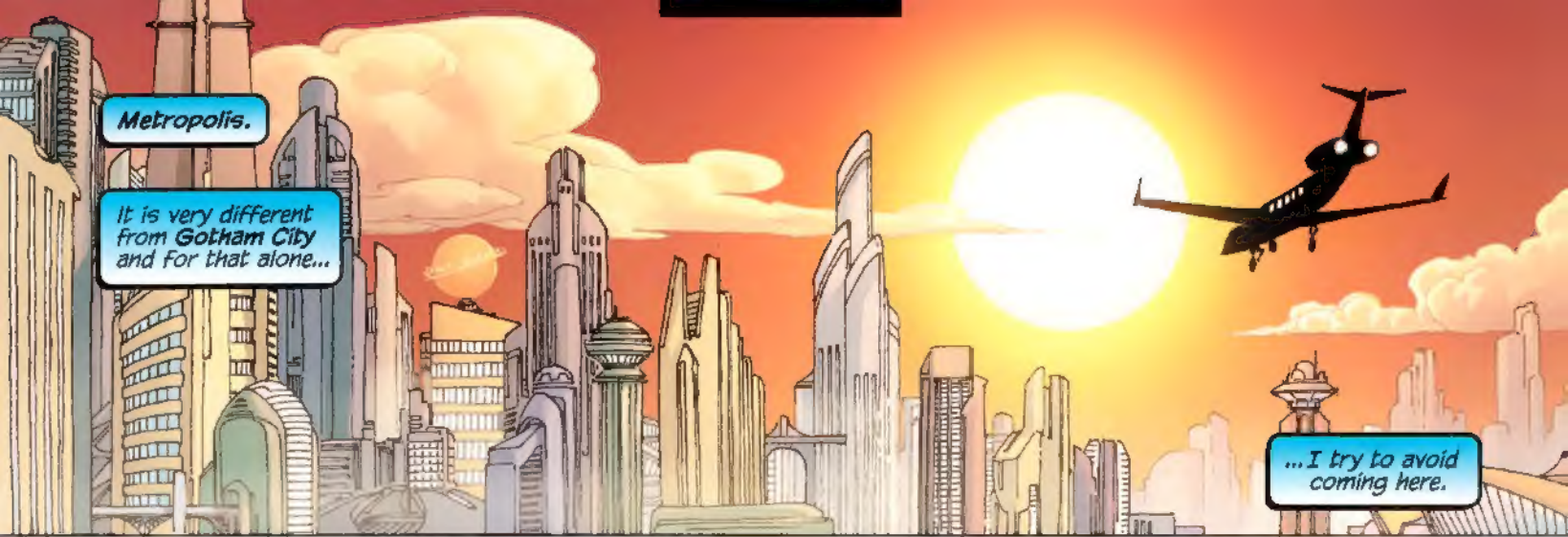
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Metropolis.

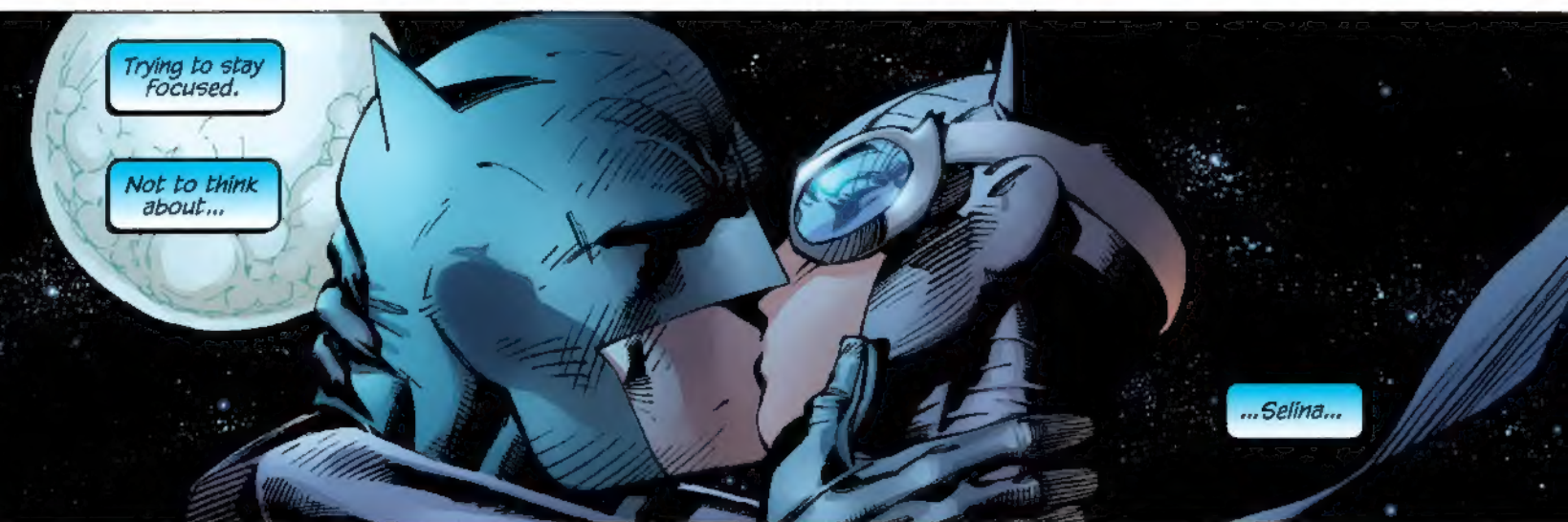
It is very different
from Gotham City
and for that alone...

...I try to avoid
coming here.



There are not many reasons
for Batman to be in this city.

But, no one will
raise an eyebrow
when Bruce Wayne
comes to town.



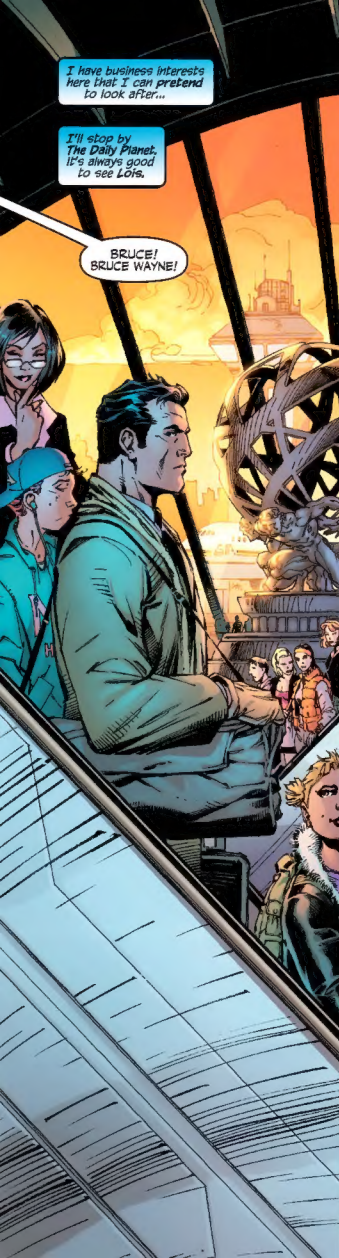
Trying to stay
focused.

Not to think
about...

...Selina...



The last time
I remember
actually wanting
to be here was
years ago.



I have business interests here that I can pretend to look after...

I'll stop by The Daily Planet. It's always good to see Lois.

BRUCE!
BRUCE WAYNE!



I kissed her...



BRUCE! IT IS YOU. I'VE BEEN YELLING LIKE A FOOL HALFWAY ACROSS THE AIRPORT --

-- I'M SORRY, TOMMY -- MY MIND MUST'VE BEEN -- I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU.

UH-HUH. MORE LIKE YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT SKIRTS. IF HALF OF WHAT YOUR REPUTATION IS, IS TRUE.

WELL...

Tommy... Doctor Thomas Elliot. The surgeon who saved my life and my childhood friend.



My father had a medical convention to attend. My mother thought we'd spend some time together.

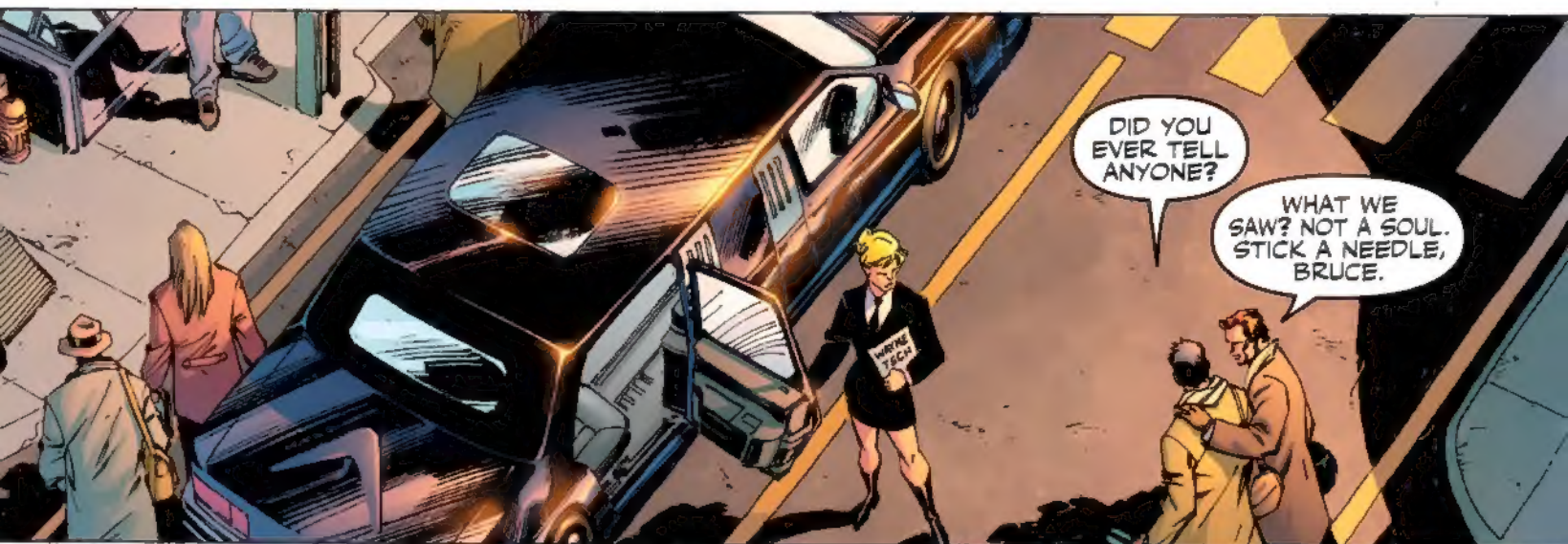
My father brought Alfred. I brought Tommy.

YOU BOYS STAY RIGHT HERE WHILE ALFRED AND I GO REGISTER. RIGHT HERE, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES, SIR.

YOU GOT IT, DOC.

Tommy spoke to my father in a way that no one else dared. But, that was Tommy...



I made a promise on the grave of my parents to rid this city of the evil that took their lives. By day, I am Bruce Wayne, billionaire philanthropist. At night, criminals, a cowardly and superstitious lot, call me...

BATMAN

CREATED BY
BOB KANE

It was one of the most extraordinary things I had ever seen in my life.

THERE! IT'S GREEN LANTERN!

Jeph
LOEB
writes

Jim
LEE
pencils

Scott
WILLIAMS
inks
Richard
STARKINGS
letters
Alex
SINCLAIR
colors
Bob
SCHRECK
edits
Morgan
DONTANVILLE
assistant edits
special thanks to
Mark
CHIARELLO

HUSH

*Chapter
Four*

THE CITY





WHERE'D THEY GO?

DOWN THE BLOCK, C'MON --!

NO. WE SHOULD HEAD BACK.

THAT BAD GUY IS **THE ICICLE**. HE'LL NEVER WIN.

HOW DO YOU KNOW **THAT**?

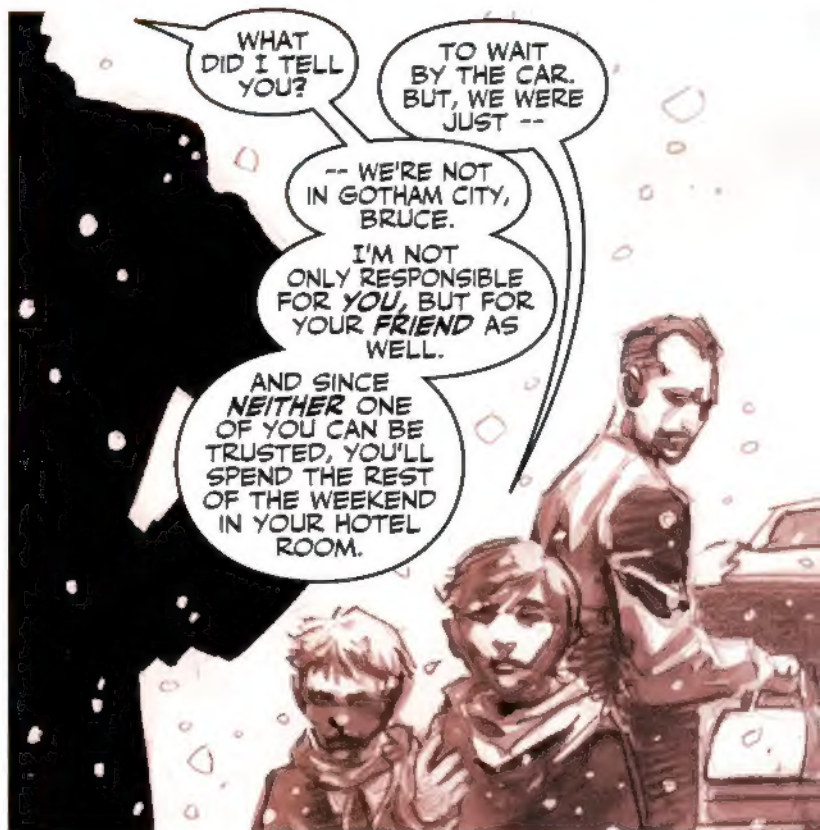
IT'S LIKE I'M ALWAYS TELLING YOU, BRUCE. YOU GOTTA BE ABLE TO **THINK** LIKE YOUR OPPONENT.



ALFRED, BRING MY MEDICAL BAG UP TO THE --

-- WHERE ARE THE **BOYS**?

I BELIEVE THAT'S THEM COMING THIS WAY NOW, SIR.



WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

TO WAIT BY THE CAR. BUT, WE WERE JUST --

-- WE'RE NOT IN GOTHAM CITY, BRUCE.

I'M NOT ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR **YOU**, BUT FOR YOUR **FRIEND** AS WELL.

AND SINCE **NEITHER** ONE OF YOU CAN BE TRUSTED, YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF THE WEEKEND IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM.



We never left the room the entire time we were in Metropolis.

We stayed perched by the window, hoping to get a glimpse of another hero, but none came.

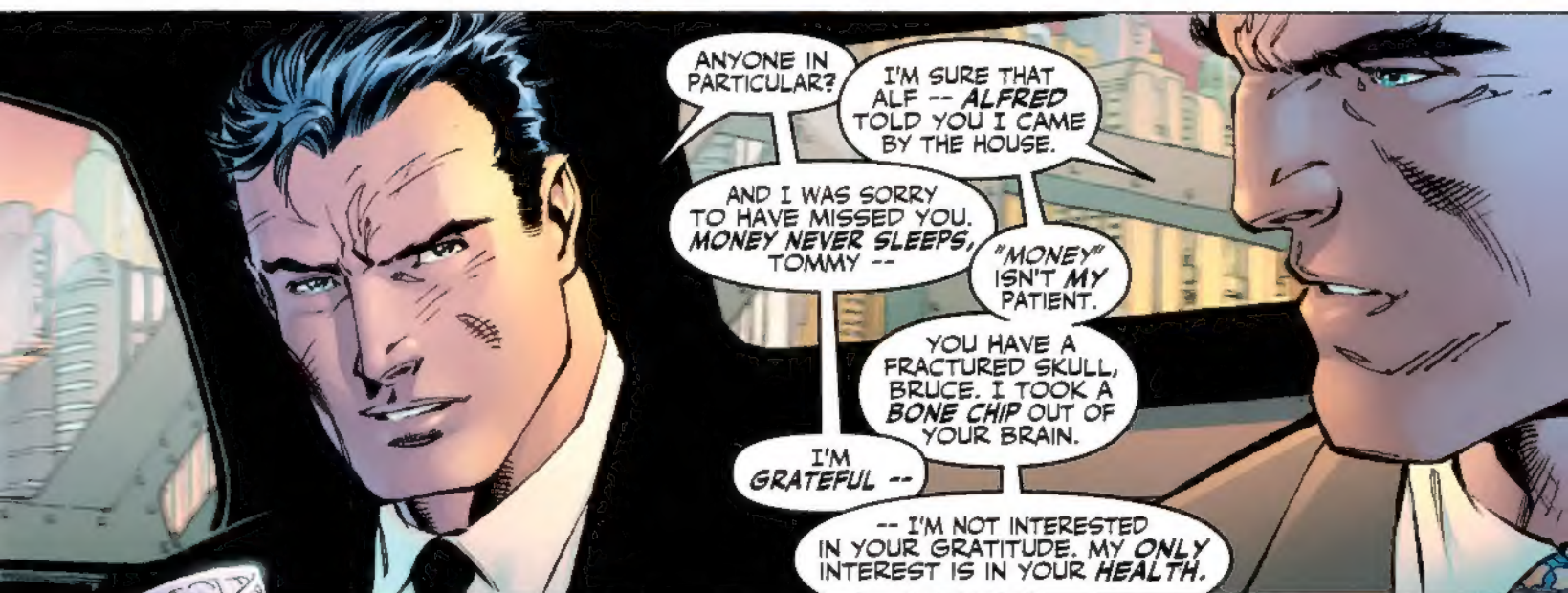
Soon after that, my parents were killed and I hardly saw Tommy again...



THINGS
CHANGE.

IF WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT
METROPOLIS,
IT ACTUALLY
HAPPENED HERE
OVERNIGHT.

CITIES ARE *MEANT*
TO RISE AND FALL, BRUCE.
I WAS REFERRING TO *PEOPLE*.



ANYONE IN
PARTICULAR?

I'M SURE THAT
ALF -- **ALFRED**
TOLD YOU I CAME
BY THE HOUSE.

AND I WAS SORRY
TO HAVE MISSED YOU.
MONEY NEVER SLEEPS,
TOMMY --

"**MONEY**"
ISN'T MY
PATIENT.

YOU HAVE A
FRACTURED SKULL,
BRUCE. I TOOK A
BONE CHIP OUT OF
YOUR BRAIN.

I'M
GRATEFUL --

-- I'M NOT INTERESTED
IN YOUR GRATITUDE. MY *ONLY*
INTEREST IS IN YOUR *HEALTH*.



I TAKE
GOOD CARE OF
MYSELF.



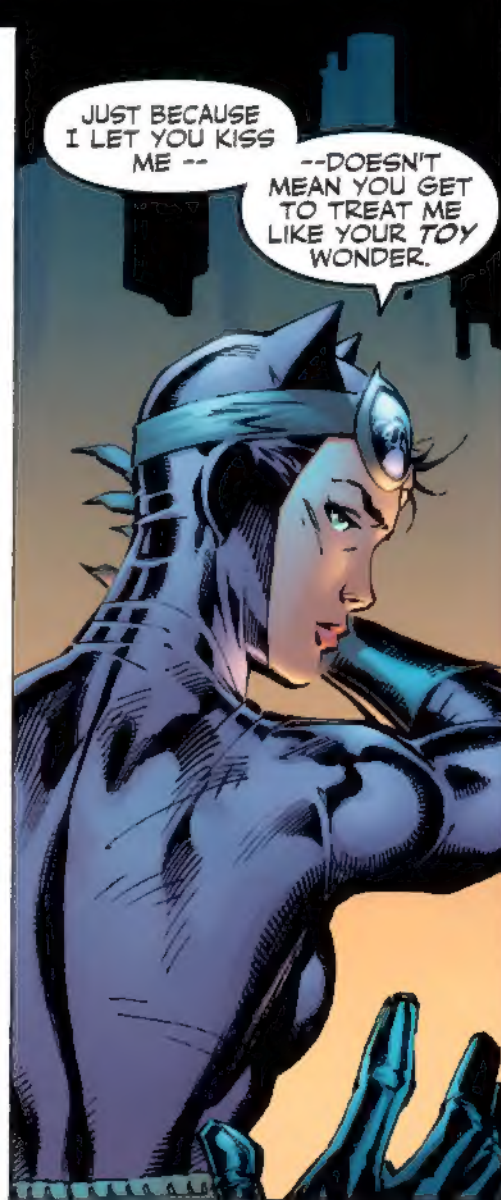
I DON'T DOUBT THAT.
BUT, I'M NOT SURE YOU'VE
GIVEN YOURSELF ADEQUATE
TIME TO HEAL.

YOU'RE NOT
SUPERMAN, YOU
KNOW.



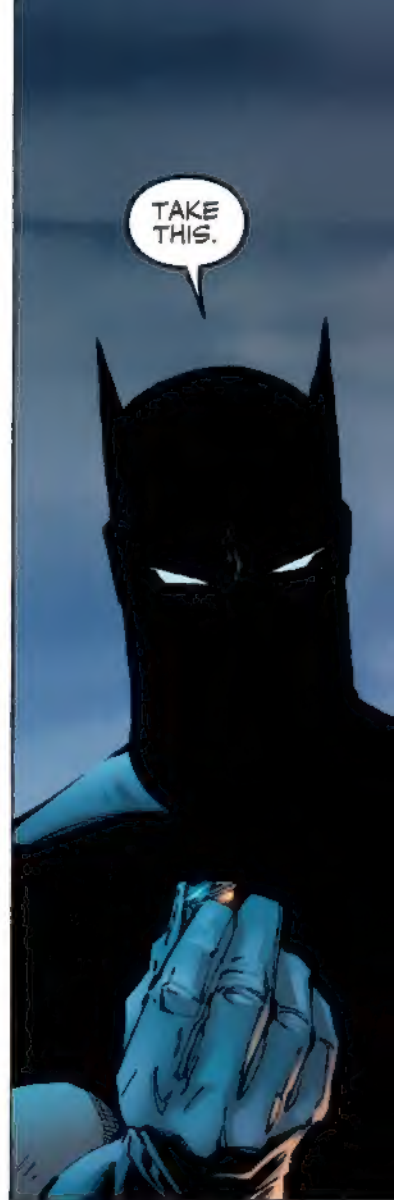
Catwoman...

DON'T GO.



JUST BECAUSE I LET YOU KISS ME --

--DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO TREAT ME LIKE YOUR TOY WONDER.



TAKE THIS.



IT'S NOT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL RING OR ANYTHING, IS IT?

METROPOLIS IS A BIG CITY. IF YOU FIND POISON IVY FIRST, ACTIVATE THAT BY PRESSING IT.

SO, I CALL, YOU COME?

YOU CAN'T TRAIN A CAT TO DO THAT.



OH, AND...

...IF I FIND IVY FIRST...?

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN.



...BUT, I'D KNOW THAT FARAWAY LOOK ANYWHERE. I'VE SEEN IT ON MY OWN FACE A FEW TIMES.

THEN, I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT I WAS THINKING ABOUT WORK.

UH-HUH.

YOU'RE SURE MY DRIVER CAN'T DROP YOU SOMEPLACE?



AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE THIS FINE YOUNG WOMAN TO TAKE ME ANYWHERE --

--IT'S JUST A FEW BLOCKS AND I'D BE A BIT OF A HYPOCRITE IF I DIDN'T SAY I COULD USE THE EXERCISE.

THERE *IS* SOMETHING YOU COULD DO FOR ME, HOWEVER.



IT *IS*, ISN'T IT...?



YOU STILL HAVE THOSE ANTIQUE WAR GAME PIECES?

I DO, ACTUALLY.

AND I HAVE MINE. UP FOR A GAME?

YOU'RE ON.

AND I WANT YOU TO ACTUALLY *SHOW UP* FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH ME TO CHECK ON HOW YOU'RE DOING.

THAT'S *TWO* SOMETHINGS YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU.

"Things change..."
Never more so than with what is happening -- with what could happen with Selina...



The Daily Planet.

HOW MANY "P'S" IN "THERAPIST"?

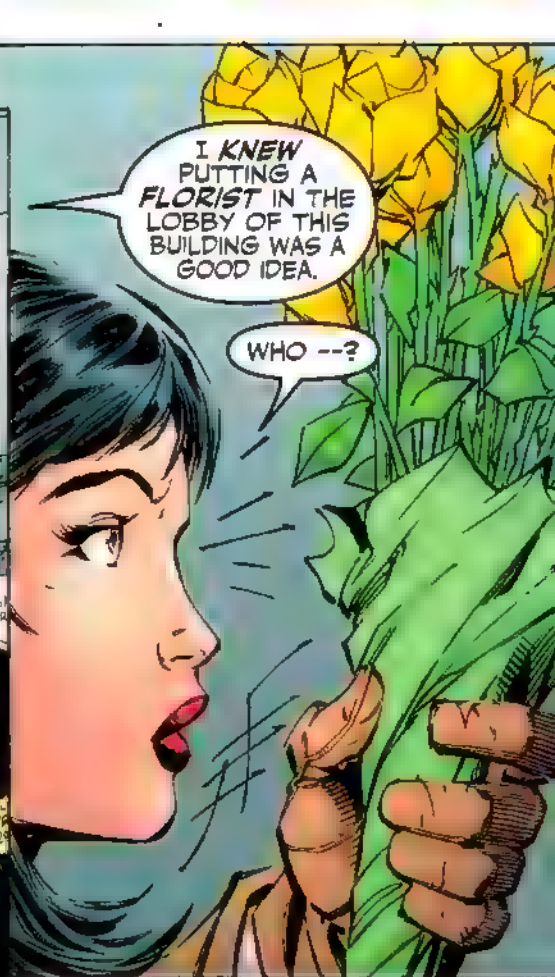
ONE, LOIS.

THANKS, SMALLVILLE. HEY, LOOK AT THAT --

--IF YOU PUT A SPACE IN "THERAPIST," YOU GET "THE RAPIST." THAT'S KIND OF CLEVER.

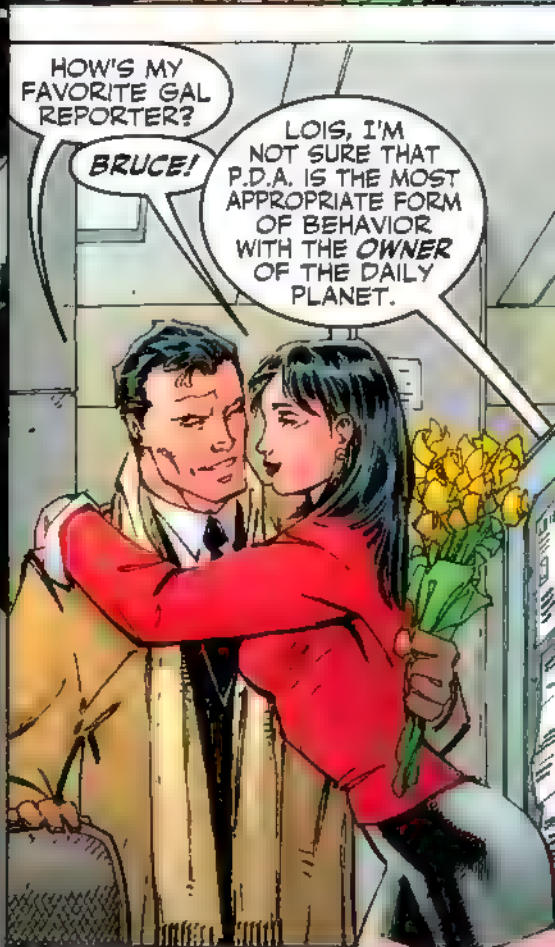
KIND OF...

CLARK, GIVE ME JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS AND WE CAN GRAB SOME DINNER.



I KNEW PUTTING A FLORIST IN THE LOBBY OF THIS BUILDING WAS A GOOD IDEA.

WHO --?



HOW'S MY FAVORITE GAL REPORTER?

BRUCE!

LOIS, I'M NOT SURE THAT P.D.A. IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORM OF BEHAVIOR WITH THE OWNER OF THE DAILY PLANET.



P.D.A.?

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION. YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OUT OF KANSAS, BRUCE, BUT...

Lois and Clark, He made the choice to be honest with her. To share both sides of his life.

Could I find that trust in...?



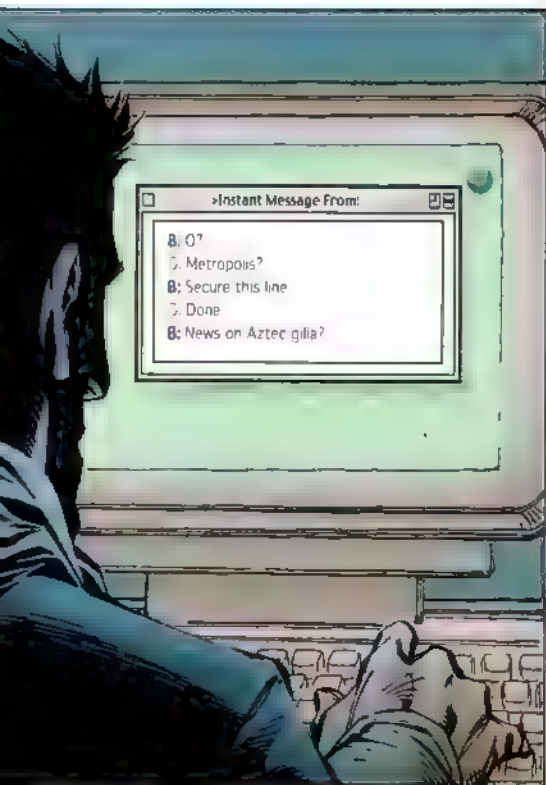
MIND
IF I LOG
ONTO YOUR
COMPUTER,
LOIS?

STOCK
TIP.

ANYTHING
YOU NEED,
BRUCE.

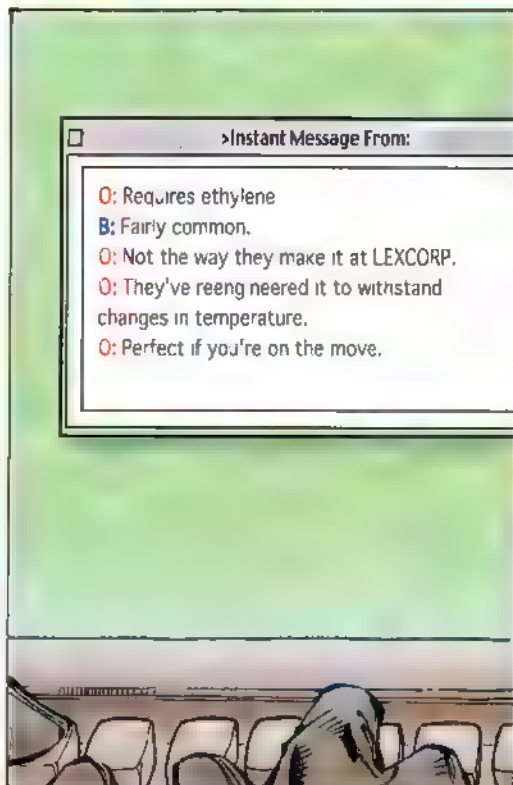
CLARK,
DINNER IS...

...GOING
TO HAVE TO WAIT.
I UNDERSTAND.



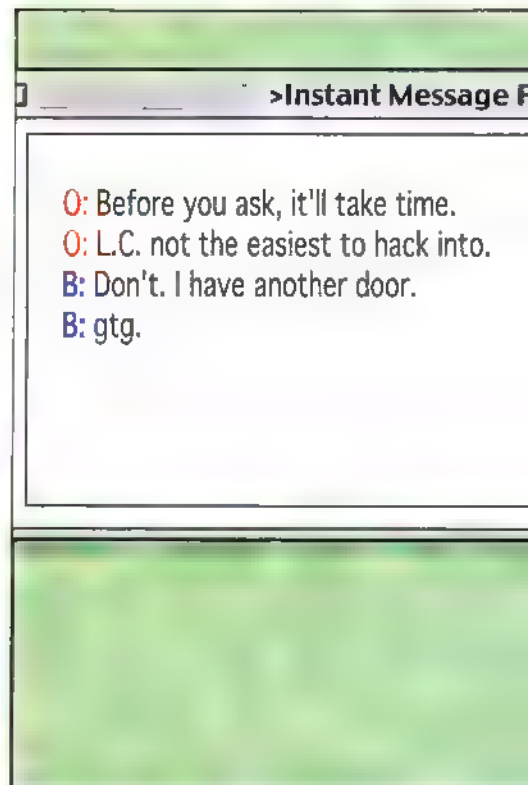
>Instant Message From:

B: O?
L: Metropolis?
B: Secure this line
L: Done
B: News on Aztec gilia?



>Instant Message From:

O: Requires ethylene
B: Fairly common.
O: Not the way they make it at LEXCORP.
O: They've reengineered it to withstand
changes in temperature.
O: Perfect if you're on the move.



>Instant Message From:

O: Before you ask, it'll take time.
O: L.C. not the easiest to hack into.
B: Don't. I have another door.
B: gtg.



IF I HAD
READ ALL THAT,
WOULD I HAVE
BEEN JEALOUS
OR RICH?

NEITHER.
YOU'D HAVE
BEEN BORED
TO TEARS.

NO, SERIOUSLY,
BRUCE, OTHER
THAN MY SPARKLING
PERSONALITY,
WHAT BRINGS
YOU TO --?

BRUCE!



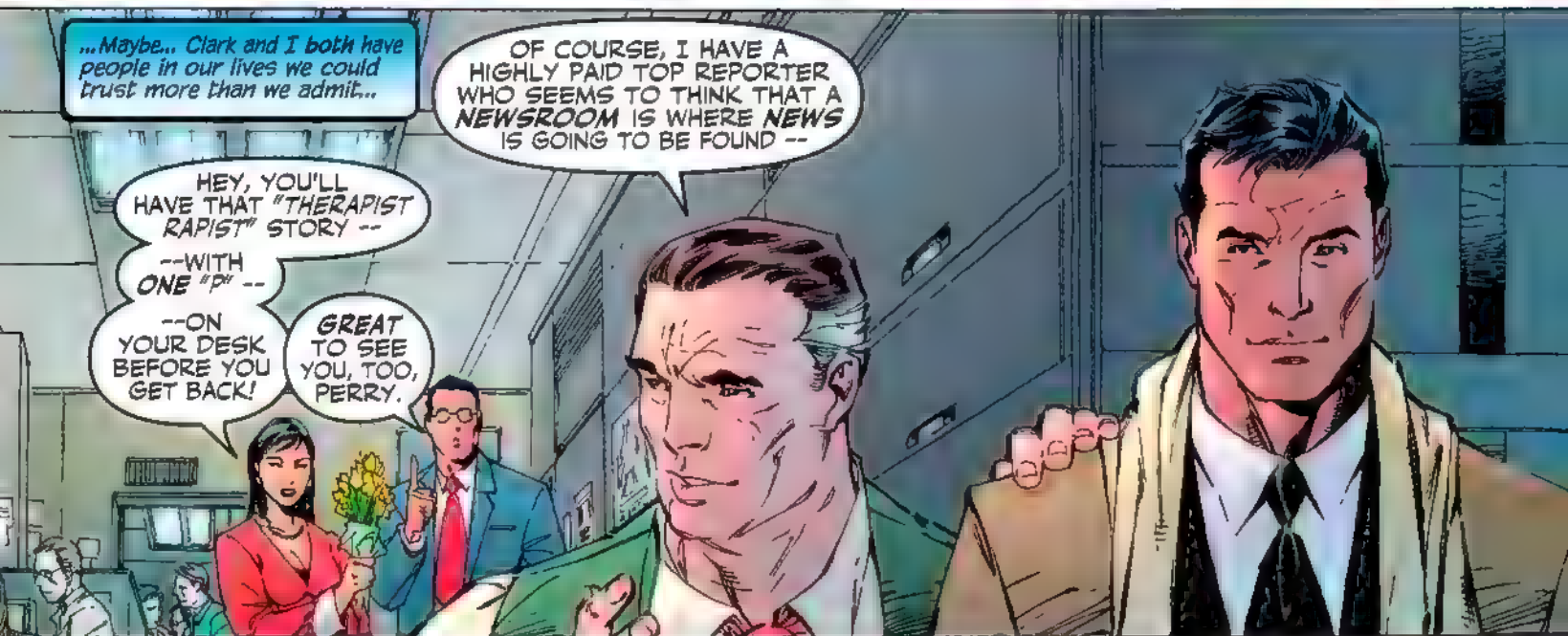
LUCIUS
WARNED ME
YOU MIGHT BE
DROPPING IN.
BUY YOU A
DRINK?

THAT DEPENDS.
HAVE YOU RUN MY
NEWSPAPER INTO THE
GROUND YET?

NOT
FOR LACK OF
TRYING.

Perry White is too good
a reporter not to have
uncovered Clark's secret.
And yet, he acts otherwise...

...reminding me how good
a detective Jim Gordon
is back in Gotham City...



...Maybe... Clark and I both have
people in our lives we could
trust more than we admit...

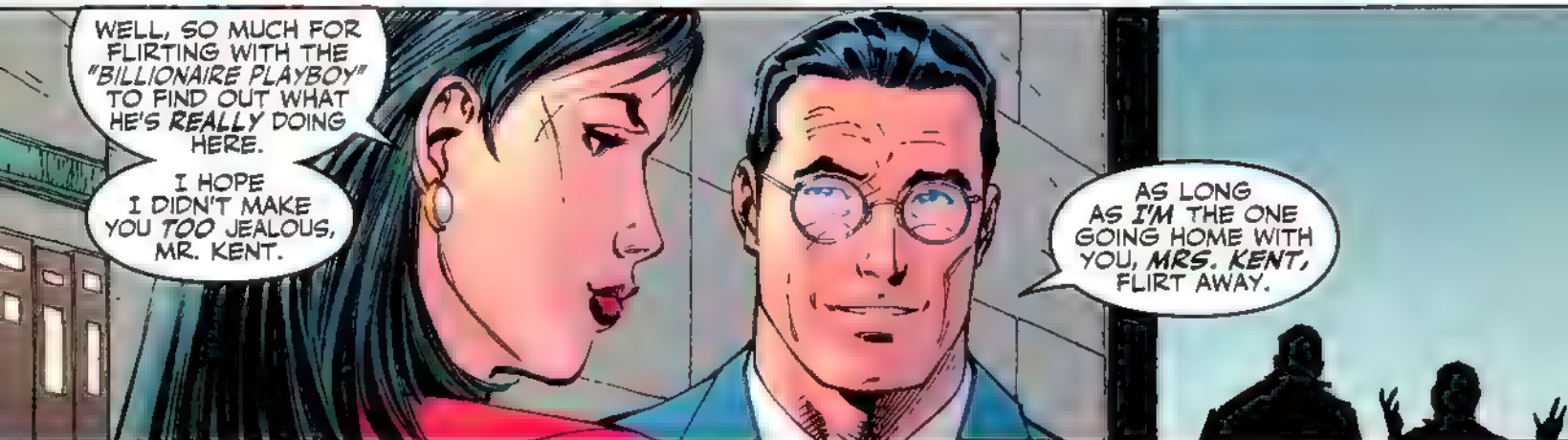
OF COURSE, I HAVE A
HIGHLY PAID TOP REPORTER
WHO SEEMS TO THINK THAT A
NEWSROOM IS WHERE NEWS
IS GOING TO BE FOUND --

HEY, YOU'LL
HAVE THAT "THERAPIST
RAPIST" STORY --

--WITH
ONE "P" --

--ON
YOUR DESK
BEFORE YOU
GET BACK!

GREAT
TO SEE
YOU, TOO,
PERRY.



WELL, SO MUCH FOR
FLIRTING WITH THE
"BILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY"
TO FIND OUT WHAT
HE'S REALLY DOING
HERE.

I HOPE
I DIDN'T MAKE
YOU TOO JEALOUS,
MR. KENT.

AS LONG
AS I'M THE ONE
GOING HOME WITH
YOU, MRS. KENT,
FLIRT AWAY.



STILL...
THE ROSES
WERE A NICE
TOUCH.

I THINK
THERE'S ONLY ONE
WAY WE'RE GOING TO
FIND OUT WHAT BRUCE
IS UP TO...

HAVE FUN
BEING ALL
TIGHTS AND
FLIGHTS.

AND REMEMBER,
DESPITE HOW HE
BEHAVES WHEN
HE'S... Y'KNOW --

--THAT
YOU TWO ARE
FRIENDS.

RIGHT.



The LexCorp Towers.

YOU
COULD COME
TO METROPOLIS
MORE OFTEN.

THIS ISN'T
A SOCIAL
VISIT.

IS IT
EVER?

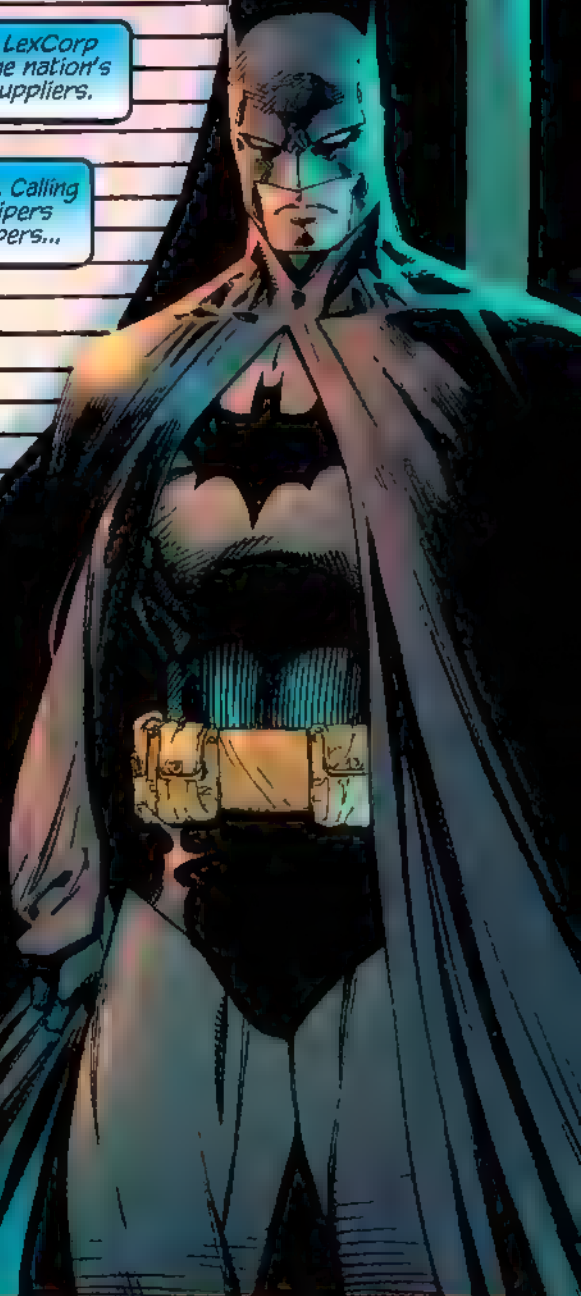


LexCorp was formerly owned and
operated by Lex Luthor, now
The President of The United States.

Currently, Talia Head, the
estranged daughter of the
megalomaniac Ra's Al Ghul,
was handed the reins when
Luthor took the Oath of Office
and was forced to divest himself
of any conflict of interest.

Not surprisingly, LexCorp
remains one of the nation's
largest weapon suppliers.

Talia, Ra's, Luthor. Calling
them a nest of vipers
is an insult to vipers...



WHAT DOES
"THE DETECTIVE"
WANT FROM ME
NOW?

THIS
COMPANY MAKES A
CHEMICAL CALLED
"ETHYLENE."

YES.
IT'S A PLANT
HORMONE. RAISING
AZTEC GILIA,
ARE WE?

IS THAT
SURPRISE I SAW
FLASH IN YOUR
EYES? I NEVER WAS
JUST A PRETTY
FACE.

TALIA.

IF SOMEONE
IN THIS CITY HAS
ACQUIRED LARGE
DOSES OF ETHYLENE,
I HAVE TO
KNOW.

YOU'RE
VIBRATING.

I'M NEEDED
ELSEWHERE.

My past relationship with
Talia is... was complicated.
I think of Selina and
the matter at hand.

KLK

THERE IS
SOMETHING...
DIFFERENT ABOUT
YOU. I AM NOT
SURE I LIKE IT.

BUT, I WILL
GET YOU THE
INFORMATION
YOU SEEK...

MMMM



DOES IT
EVER GET DARK
IN THIS CITY?

EVEN AT
NIGHT, IT'S LIT UP
LIKE IT'S IMPORTANT
OR SOMETHING.



YOUR
"PAGER/HOMING-
DEVICE THING"
WORKS.

OBVIOUSLY.



I
INTERRUPTED
SOMETHING.
DIDN'T I?

NOT MANY
WOMEN CAN WEAR
CHANEL NO. 5
AND MAKE IT
WORK.

SORRY.
THAT WAS...
CATTY.

I KNOW
WHERE
IVY IS.

SO
DO I.



I... THAT
IS, YOU
SAID --

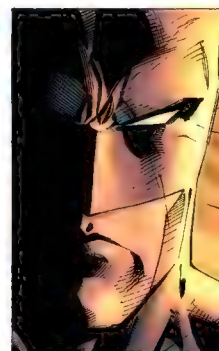
-- THAT I
WANTED TO GET
TO HER FIRST. I STILL
DO, BUT I WANTED
YOU TO KNOW WHY.



IVY TOOK
CONTROL OF
MY MIND.
SHE MADE ME
DO THINGS I
MAY HAVE BEEN
PRONE TO,
BUT THAT'S MY
DECISION.

NO ONE
GETS TO
VIOLATE
ME LIKE
THAT.

UNDERSTOOD?



WELL.

NOW
THAT WE'RE
CLEAR ON
THAT.

I'LL
MEET YOU
THERE.



I kissed her...

In Gotham City, Killer Croc led me to a penthouse where he believed Poison Ivy would be.

The plants I found there were *Aztec gilia*. They are, at best, difficult to grow in an indoor environment.

Ivy could no more abandon them than a mother could her child, taking them with her to Metropolis.

I'VE
COME BACK
TO YOU.

HAVE
YOU?

IT'S
LIKE YOU
SAID --

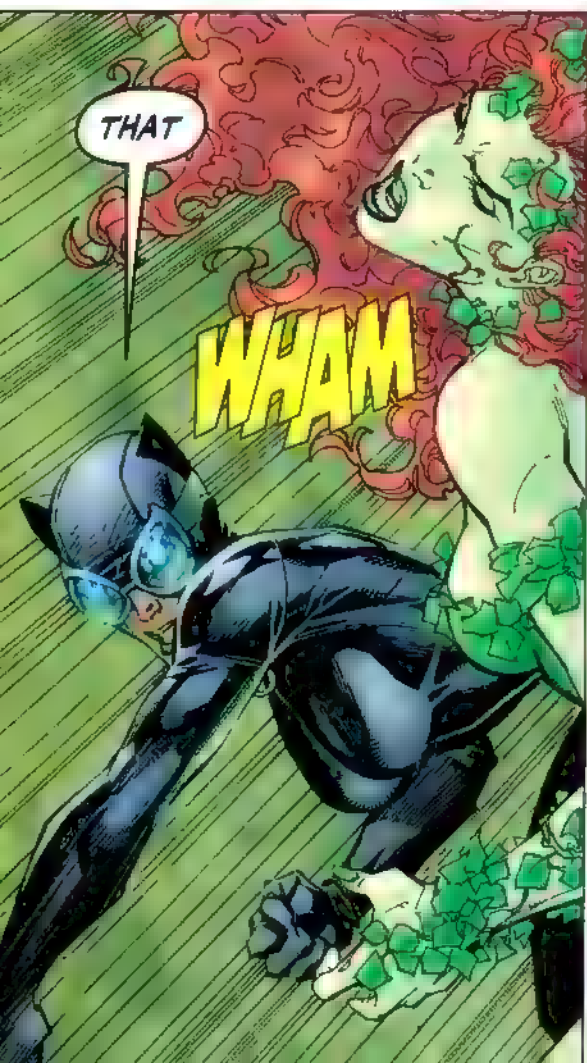
-- NO ONE
CAN RESIST
YOU.

YESSS...



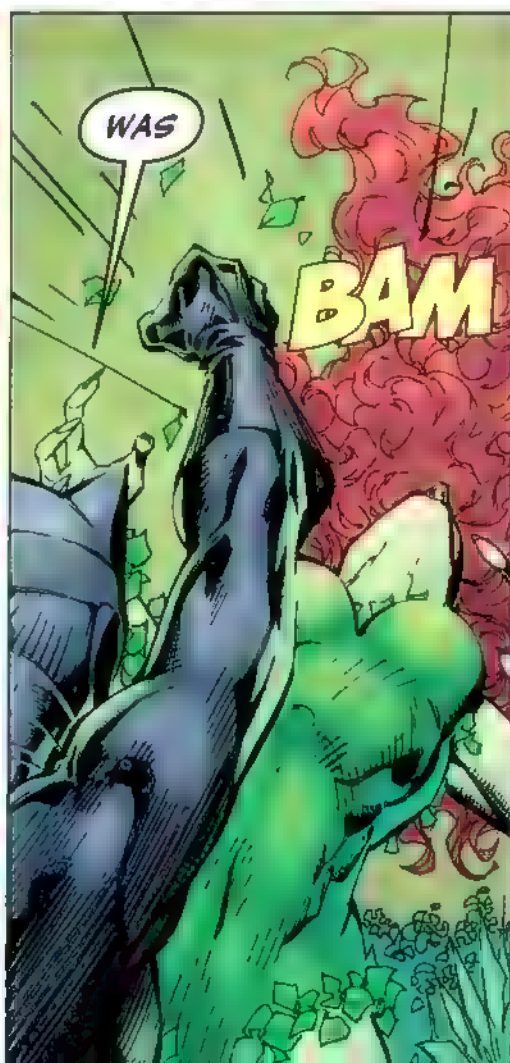
...BUT I
CAN ALWAYS TELL
WHEN SOMEONE IS
PRETENDING.

SRAK



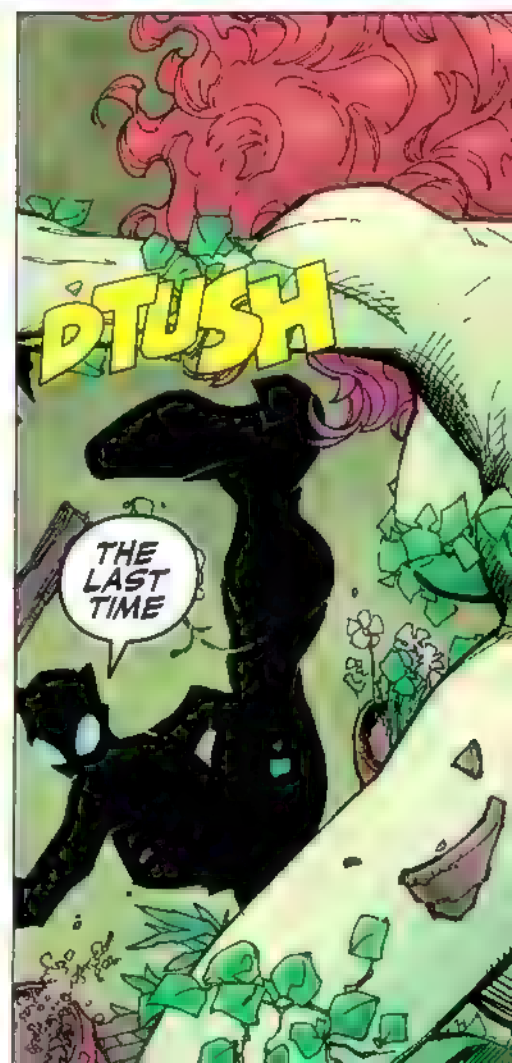
THAT

WHAM



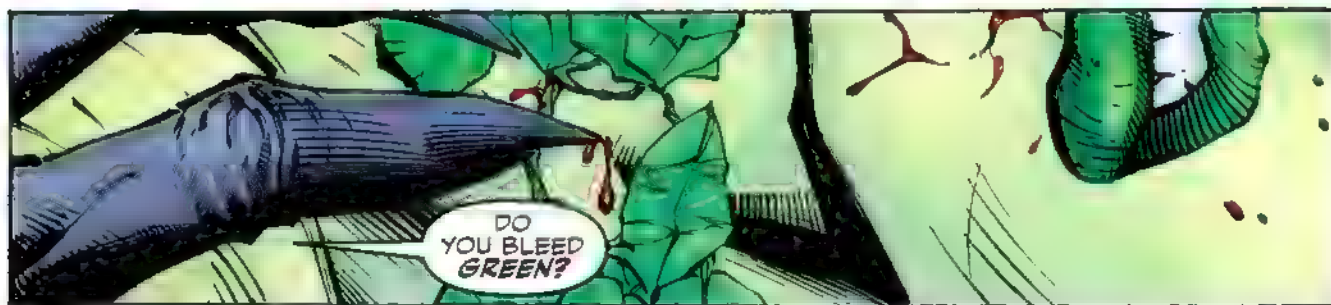
WAS

BAM



DTUSH

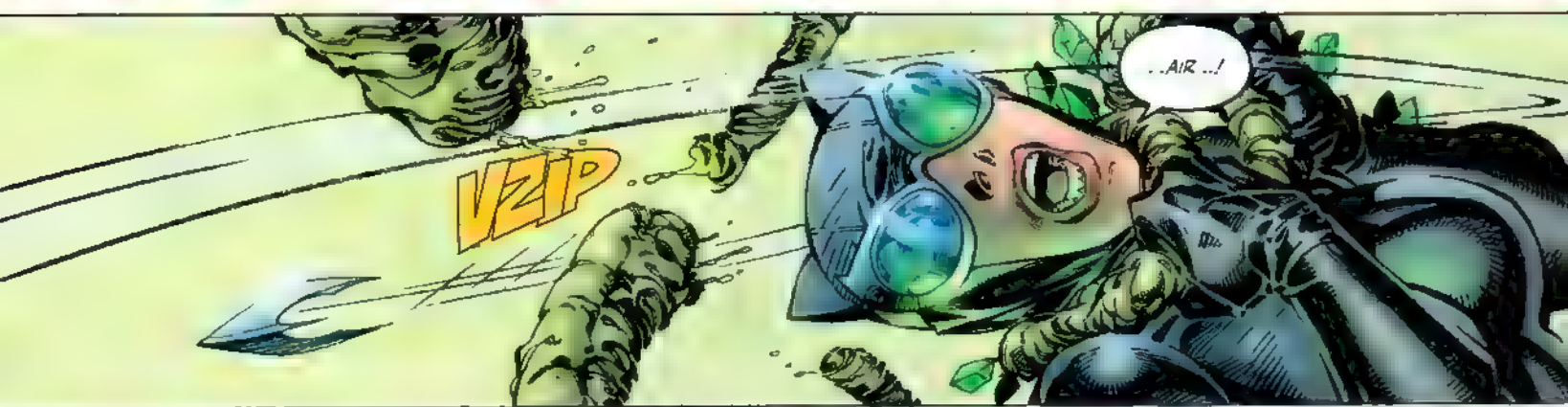
THE
LAST
TIME





THE PLANTS
DON'T LIKE IT WHEN
YOU TOUCH THEIR
MOTHER --

-- WITCH!



...AIR ...!

VZIP

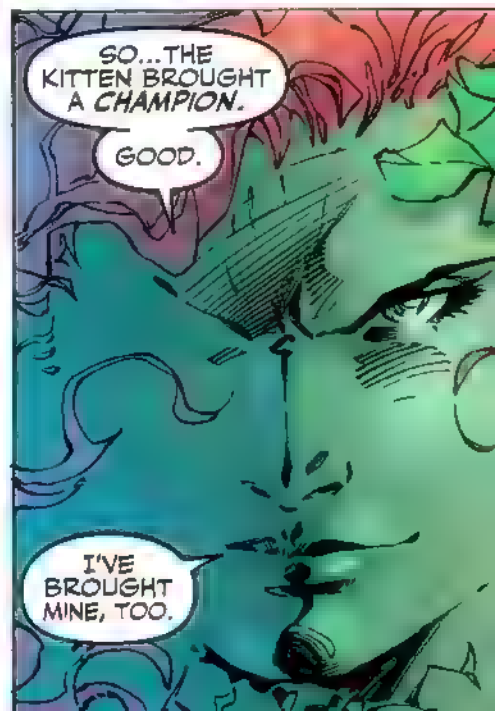


IVY.

YOU ARE
COMING BACK TO
GOTHAM CITY.



WHAT'D
YOU DO?
WALK?



SO...THE
KITTEN BROUGHT
A CHAMPION.

GOOD.

I'VE
BROUGHT
MINE, TOO.



IF YOU COME
NEAR HER --

-- YOU'LL
HAVE TO COME
THROUGH ME.

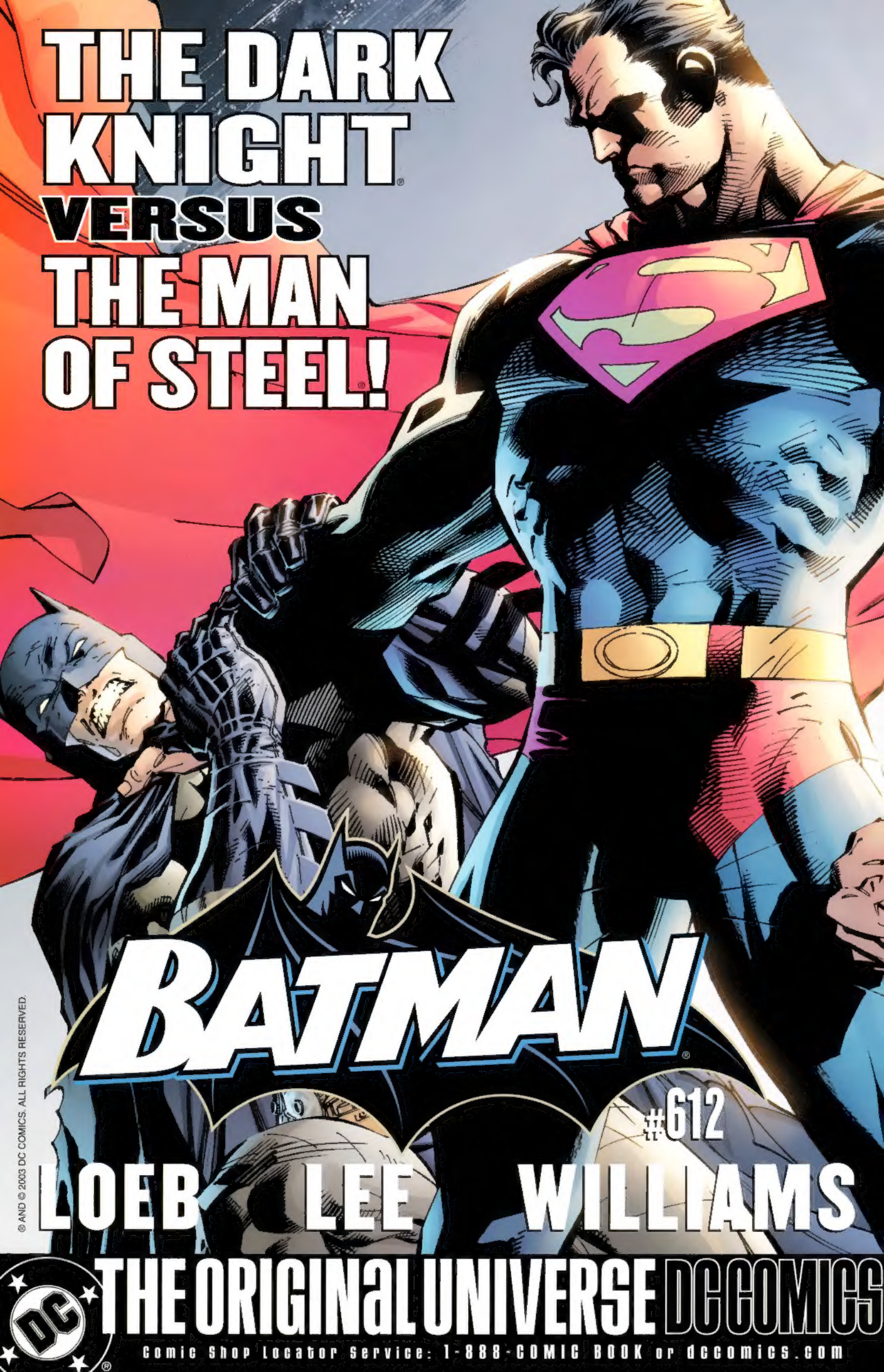
YOU HEARD
THE MAN.

MY
SUPERMAN.



next: BATMAN vs. SUPERMAN

THE DARK KNIGHT VERSUS THE MAN OF STEEL!



BATMAN

#612

LOEB

LEE

WILLIAMS

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DC

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This Month's Cover by...

JIM LEE SCOTT WILLIAMS
ALEX SINCLAIR

Next Month in...

Batman #612

Loeb, Lee, and Williams present: Batman vs. Superman?! It's a rock 'em sock 'em battle extravaganza! Metropolis's Big Blue Man of Steel vs. Gotham City's Dark Knight. Prepare to be dazzled! Boo-ya!



The Hot List THIS MONTH

AQUAMAN #2

Banished from the sea, with all of Atlantis after his head, Aquaman must make a new life for himself. Can the Martian Manhunter help Aquaman find his true path?



BATMAN #611

HUSH continues! In a two-part story arc, Catwoman and Batman journey to Metropolis on the trail of Poison Ivy. The capricious couple soon finds Ivy has something — or someone — up her sleeve.



SUPERMAN: THE 10-CENT ADVENTURE

The debut of new Super-team Steven T. Seagle, Scott McDaniel, and Andy Owens, the powerful new villain Amok and the enigmatic Futuresmiths, all for one thin dime!



JLA/THE SPECTRE: SOUL WAR #1

The Spectre and the JLA form an uneasy alliance when the minds of psychics across the country are hijacked by a devastating alien menace that threatens the fabric of reality itself!



Asylum Seekers?

"Trust me, this is one place you do not want to go."

— Dan Slott, writer

Arkham Asylum: Living Hell #1

(Spring 2003) Who in their right mind would want to be sent to Gotham City's institution for the criminally insane? Find out in this disturbing six-issue miniseries by writer Dan Slott (JUSTICE LEAGUE ADVENTURES) and artist Ryan Sook (THE SPECTRE, Hellboy). Wear your finest straitjacket and meet new crackpots like Humpty Dumpty and Death Rattle, plus rubber room regulars like Two-Face, Riddler, and The Joker!

SPOTTED ON THE LOT

DC Executive Editor Mike Carlin and Senior Editor Eddie Berganza were seen strolling the Warner Bros. Ranch in Burbank with writers Steven Seagle, Joe Casey, Joe Kelly, and Chuck Austen. This Super-summit was to set the course for the Man of Steel in the coming year!

Word has it there are two outstanding SUPERMAN Prestige projects in the pipeline. First, Kurt Busiek and Stuart Immonen (an artist so hot he's about to ignite) have a cool story about a kid who isn't Superman, but others think he is, but he's not...but maybe he's wrong. Seriously, it's fascinating and the art is stunning. The creator of the super-teen epic Zot!, Scott McCloud, gives us his very special take on a young Clark

Kent who's questioning the limits his parents have set for him. And Scott knows about kids with power...

SCARY MONSTERS, SUPER CREEPS?

If you like stories that keep you running, running scared, check out JLA: SCARY MONSTERS, coming out around April. X-pect writer Chris Claremont to blend the horror of mutating monsters with the nonstop action only the World's Greatest Super-Heroes can muster. Word

around the Watchtower is that the six-issue mini uncovers a traitor in the group, ignites a romance for another member, and introduces a brand-new power player in the DCU!

AN APPOINTMENT WITH FATE

Before you know it, it'll be allergy season, so this summer we prescribe a healthy dose of "Vitamin DC" and an appointment with DR. FATE. OK, Hector Hall won't fix the runny noses or sneezing, but he will cure JSADD (JSA Deficit Disorder). Spinning off from landmark events in JSA #50, this miniseries — think "Die Hard in Salem Tower" — is limited to five issues, but the results that novelist Christopher Golden and hot new artist Don Kramer are producing will be long-lasting, we guarantee!

To get more of DC in Demand's Inside Scoop, go to www.dccomics.com/deindemand right now!

MR. LOEB GOES TO WASHINGTON

Jeph Loeb pairs up the World's Finest team — the Man of Steel and the Dark Knight — in an all-new monthly later this year. DC insiders (no, not the guys in Washington) say they're gonna clean up the White House together...provided some Meteor Rocks don't wipe out Superman first!

— your *MOLE* at 1700

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